Vesalius Museum

EN

Open call Transplant Days

Call for artists and makers

By:

UZ LEUVEN

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Transplant Days

Call for artists and makers

Vesalius Museum in Leuven invites artists and makers to propose an artistic project for the Transplant Days, a focus exhibition on transplantation with an accompanying public programme in autumn 2027. Existing work, adaptations of existing work and newly developed work are all eligible. We will select one artistic project and provide a budget of €5.000, covering the artist's fee and production costs. The call welcomes artists and makers seeking to develop their practice, from those starting out to those with a more established practice.

What is the call about?

An organ transplant can mark a new beginning, while also touching on loss, uncertainty and saying goodbye. Hope, joy, grief and gratitude can be closely intertwined. What transplantation means differs for everyone involved. On the occasion of the World Transplant Games in Leuven, Vesalius Museum is developing a programme with Transplantoux that brings together art, science, heritage and personal stories. At its heart is the question of what transplantation means for people's lives, before and after the procedure.

We are looking for work that offers a distinctive perspective on transplantation and donation, embodiment, identity, waiting, loss, recovery or connection. How do you live with a changed body? How does waiting, giving, receiving or saying goodbye affect you? How do relationships with yourself and others change? What meanings do an organ and the body take on for the different people involved? The experiences of transplant recipients, living donors, donor families, loved ones and healthcare professionals can serve as a starting point. There is room for uncertainty, critical questions and diverse experiences.

Who can apply and what can you submit?

The call is open to artists and makers at different stages of their artistic practice, including students and collectives. All artistic disciplines are welcome. You may submit an existing work, an adaptation of it or an idea for new work. Explain how your proposal relates to the theme and how it could be presented in the museum. A fully developed design is not required.

What do we offer?

The selected project will be shown at Vesalius Museum from 7 October to 7 November 2027 during the Transplant Days, as part of a programme bringing together art, heritage, science and lived experience around organ donation and transplantation. The total budget is €5,000 for the artist's fee and production combined; the same amount applies to collectives. Please include any transport, installation and technical costs in your budget so that we can assess feasibility together.

The museum offers curatorial support and, where relevant, will explore opportunities to connect the selected artist with people involved in healthcare, science and transplant communities. We also offer the selected artist a residency at BAC ART LAB from mid-April to the end of August 2027, with a 20 m² ground-floor studio for research, development and experimentation. The artist retains ownership of the work.

How do you apply?

Please submit a single, concise application containing:

- → A short introduction of yourself and three to ten examples of previous work or a link to your portfolio.
- → A description of your proposal and its connection to the theme, in no more than one A4 page, accompanied by at least one image, sketch or relevant audio or video link.
- → A simple budget listing the artist's fee and production costs separately, an indicative schedule and your main technical and spatial requirements.
- → Please indicate whether you would like to use the studio at BAC ART LAB, available from mid-April to the end of August 2027.

A jury will select the project based on artistic quality, relevance to the theme and feasibility within the budget and museum setting. The jury may decide not to select a project if none of the submitted proposals sufficiently meets the selection criteria. For work involving personal stories, respectful engagement with those involved is essential.

The jury consists of Tinne Claes (Academic Director, Vesalius Museum), Kurt d'Haeseleer (Artistic Director, Werktank), Ellen Goetstouwers (Expert by Experience in Organ Transplantation), Kristien Jacobs (Head of the Culture Office, KU Leuven), Diethard Monbaliu (Transplant Surgeon, UZ Leuven/KU Leuven, and Chair of Transplantoux), Tania Rombaut (Expert by Experience in Organ Transplantation), Stéphane Symons (Chair of the Committee for Contemporary Art, KU Leuven) and Annelies Vogels (Curator of Art and History, Vesalius Museum).

All applicants will be notified by email.

Questions and submissions:
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Submission deadline: 4 January 2027
Results announced by the end of January 2027
Residency: mid-April – end of August 2027
Exhibition: 7 October – 7 November 2027